



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 1090

LCO No. 3848

03848_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) In any municipality that
2 has a volunteer fire company, the Commissioner of Economic and
3 Community Development, in collaboration with such municipality, the
4 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the executive
5 director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, shall establish
6 a pilot project to provide affordable housing, as defined in section 8-
7 39a of the general statutes, for active members of a volunteer fire
8 company who are in good standing and have volunteered for at least
9 one year in the municipality. The municipality may donate land for the
10 purpose of its use as affordable housing for such active members. Any
11 governmental or nongovernmental agency may provide financial
12 assistance and redevelopment grants for the purpose of funding the
13 development of such affordable housing.

14 Sec. 2. Section 8-40 of the general statutes is repealed and the
15 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

16 In each municipality of the state there is created a public body
 17 corporate and politic to be known as the "housing authority" of the
 18 municipality; provided such authority shall not transact any business
 19 or exercise its powers hereunder until the governing body of the
 20 municipality by resolution declares that there is need for a housing
 21 authority in the municipality, provided it shall find (1) that insanitary
 22 or unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations exist in the
 23 municipality, [or] (2) that there is a shortage of safe or sanitary
 24 dwelling accommodations in the municipality available to families of
 25 low income at rentals they can afford, [or] (3) that there is a shortage of
 26 safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations in the municipality
 27 available to families of moderate income at rentals they can afford, or
 28 (4) that there is a shortage of safe or sanitary dwelling
 29 accommodations in the municipality available to the active members
 30 serving in a volunteer fire company of such municipality at rentals
 31 they can afford. In determining whether dwelling accommodations are
 32 unsafe or insanitary, said governing body may take into consideration
 33 the degree of overcrowding, the percentage of land coverage, the light,
 34 air, space and access available to the inhabitants of such dwelling
 35 accommodations, the size and arrangement of the rooms, the sanitary
 36 facilities and the extent to which conditions exist in such buildings
 37 which endanger life or property by fire or other causes. The governing
 38 bodies of two or more municipalities may create a regional housing
 39 authority, which shall have all the powers, duties and responsibilities
 40 conferred upon housing authorities by this chapter and chapter 130.
 41 The area of operation of such authority shall include the municipalities
 42 for which such authority is created. Such authority shall act through a
 43 board of commissioners composed of two representatives from each
 44 municipality appointed for terms of four years in the manner provided
 45 in section 8-41.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
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Sec. 2	October 1, 2011	8-40
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish firefighter villages in order to facilitate the participation of members of volunteer fire departments in providing fire response services in a municipality.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]